GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3017
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
POACHING OF ELEPHANTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas in Orissa which are prone to wild elephant poaching;

(b) the specific reasons for the same;

(c) the action, the Government has taken to counter such problems; and

(d) to what extent such measures have been successful?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) All the forest areas in Orissa inhabited by elephants are prone to poaching. However, the recent reports of poaching of tuskers have come from Athamallik, Athgarh and Dhenkanal Forest Divisions. The tuskers are being targeted by the poachers for obtaining ivory.

(c) As reported by the State Government, each case of elephant death is promptly inspected by a Gazetted Officer of the Division and in all cases of illegal killing of elephants, suitable action is taken after detailed investigation. A Wildlife Crime Cell has been set up in the office of the Chief Wildlife Warden of Orissa for monitoring the progress of investigations and prosecutions. The State Forest Department has established anti-poaching camps, intensified patrol by the field staff and also engaged trackers for monitoring the movement of elephant herds to protect them from poachers.

Government of India has provided an amount of Rs 121 lakh to the State Government under Project Elephant during the current financial year for protection of elephants and their habitats and also for mitigating human - elephant conflict.

(d) As informed by the State Government, three cases of poaching of tuskers have taken place during the current financial year. Tusks have been recovered in one case. Five of the offenders responsible for two cases of poaching have been arrested while two other persons involved in the third case are absconding. No more case of poaching of tuskers has been reported since 8.7.2004.